# I/N News ... especially for you! 

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## Improve Your Game with Tips from Marty Bergen

When either the dummy or declarer hand is much stronger than the other, entry problems are likely, so be on the lookout.

The No. 1 priority at any form of scoring is to make your contract.
When playing matchpoints, overtricks can be crucial. This is especially true if you're in a normal contract that other players rate to reach. When the risk is minimal, declarer should even be willing to risk his contract in search of overtricks.

3NT is the final contract almost 20 percent of the time, and is the most popular contract.

When the opponents sacrifice, almost always lead trump - even with a singleton.
Cover an honor with an honor ONLY when you have a realistic chance of promoting a card in your hand or partner's.

When the vulnerability is favorable (opponents are vul and your side is not), you should be very aggressive competitive auctions.

When responder wants to make a forcing raise in opener's major, Jacoby 2 NT is an excellent convention to explore for slam.

Setting up 5-card suits is one of the keys to success.
Although always is a word to be avoided in bridge, The Law of Total Tricks (bidding to the level equal to the number of trumps) is more accurate than any bridge player you or I know, and it even transcends vulnerability.

When an opponent opens a minor, avoiding a 1NT overcall because you lack a stopper is even more impractical than not opening 1NT with a worthless doubleton.

Don't open 1NT with 15 UGLY high-card points.

Everybody knows; Once you transfer, never rebid a 5-card suit," But with a strong suit and good shape, "never say never.

Declarers void is always worth 3 points. Trumping with dummy's "short" trumps is more desirable than trumping with declarer's "long" trumps.

Any hand that includes a long suit that rates to "run," is worth a lot more than its point count would indicate.
Good bidding will usually result in good contracts, but sometimes the success of the contract will depend on something as random as which doubleton partner was dealt.

Notrump bids are more descriptive than suit bids. Therefore, when you have a choice of bids, don't be vague when you can be precise.

Non-negative doubles show general strength. They are similar to responder's redouble after partner opens and an opponent makes a takeout double. The usual minimum is 10 HCP , although doubles after a 1 NT overcall can be made with 9 HCP.

Any suit containing four honors can be treated as if it were one card longer than it actually is.
Hands with all their strength concentrated in their 2 longest suits are always worth more than their point-count would indicate.

After your opponent's artificial bid, if you bid that same suit, it is NOT a cue bid; it is a natural overcall.
After a 3-level preempt, the focus of a double must be on 3NT.
When opener has 4-4 in the minors and an unbalanced hand, it is usually sensible to open 1 diamond.
The concept of upgrading or downgrading hands is critical to proper hand evaluation.
A good defender will consider whether to "cover or not" as soon as dummy is tabled.
After you respond 1 NT , avoid introducing a suit that is only five cards long.
When all you need from partner to make game is a little help, don't be delicate just bid it.
The most important topic on the play of the cards is managing entries.
All honors become less valuable when "isolated."
The traditional 4-3-2-1 point count evaluates kings correctly, but it underrates aces and tens and overrates queens and jacks.

Any suit that includes $3+$ of the top 5 cards is a quality suit. For each quality suit, add one point to the value of your hand.
(continued from page 2)
Honors in short suits are not worth their assigned value and should be devalued.
Supporting partner's major suit is what bridge is all about.
When you partner opens 1NT and you have a very weak major suit: If your side has 27-30 HCP, respond 3NT rather than bidding Stayman.

When defending against NT, always try to count HCPs.
I strongly recommend that you be eager to make lead-directing doubles of an opponent's artificial bid. The importance of helping partner find the best lead cannot be over-emphasized.

On many hands where dummy has a short side suit, the defenders should shift to trumps ASAP Leading from weakness toward strength can be crucial even when no finesses is involved.

A third reason to postpone pulling trump: You are eager to set up a side suit.
Here's another reason to postpone pulling trump: You must preserve your trumps for entries.
There are many reasons to postpone pulling trump. One of them: You need to ruff losers in dummy.
When declarer has an inevitable loser, he should usually lose it sooner than later. This variation of the holdup play is referred to as a "duck," and its purpose is to preserve entries.

The higher the level of RHO's initial action, the better your hand must be in order to bid or double.
When your RHO doubles partner's opening bid in a suit, your jump raise shows a weak hand with excellent support.

A significant number of experts play 1NT semi-forcing. If many of the best bridge players believe that 1NT SemiForcing is a better way to play, perhaps you should give it a try.

When one side opens 1NT and the other side finds a fit, they probably have distributional hands, so a trump lead is the way to go.

Light 1NT overcalls when non-vulnerable allow you to take action with some otherwise unbiddable hands.
When you have a chance to overruff with a sure winner, don't do it except in very special circumstances.
Once a declarer goes to work on a suit, the defenders should almost always avoid leading that suit.
After partner's Michael's cue bid, a jump raise in his major promises good support, not "points."
When declarer's second suit becomes trumps, a trump lead is often best for the defense.
You don't have to "waste your time" preempting once an opponent has announced that he is broke.
(Continued on page 4)
(Continued from page 3)
Any hand with 11 HCP that also has 3 quick tricks deserves to be upgraded.
Once partner passes, RHO opens and your hand is weak and shapely, "bid 'em up!"
How do you execute a squeeze? Take all your winners in the irrelevant suits and hope.
A new suit at the 3 level is NOT economical, so it reqires a 5 -card suit or a quality 4 -card suit.
When missing 6 cards in a suit, a 3-3 split is against the odds. Don't count on it.
If you'd like to bid after an opponent's three-level preempt, think 3 NT. It's very unlikely that the preemptor will ever get in to run his long suit.

With an independent major suit, don't even consider other contracts.
If your partner invites a notrump slam with a leap to 4 NT , you're welcome to bid a suit.
Declarer never wants to get "stuck" in the short hand.
The Rule of 11 does apply in both notrump and suit contracts-as long as the lead is 4 th best.
Drawing trumps with a long, strong suit isn't difficult, but should not be considered routine, either. If possible, you'd like to preserve entries to both hands.

In 2/1 game forcing, responder doesn't promise a 5 -card suit when he responds 2 clubs or 2 diamonds.
When raising partner's major, HCP are not the key - distribution points are.
When you are giving partner a ruff or attempting to do so, give a suit preference signal with the card you lead for him to ruff.

In 2/1 game forcing, when opener bids a new suit at the two level, it does not deny a 6 -card major. We bid 6-4-6.
Responder should usually allow opener to describe his hand first.
Even if you have a sure loser, give yourself a chance to avoid it.
Negative Doubles are most important convention in bridge. I do believe that if forced to choose, I would sooner give up Stayman!

Learn your partner's style, even if you don't always agree with it.
Once a suit has been determined and a game force established, new suits are control-bids.
With 6-5 distribution and a minimum opening bid, open your five-card suit when it is higher ranking.
(Continued from page 4)
Honors in short suits should be devalued unless partner has promised that suit. QJ doubleton is one of many examples.

Always be eager to compete aggressively with a good, long suit.
When your side is vulnerable, you must be very careful doubling 1 spade with a marginal hand.
When partner opens and your RHO doubles or overcalls, responder's jump shift should be preemptive. (Thanks to those who offered spelling corrections after the first post.)

The process of elimination is an excellent way to figure out the best bid on a difficult hand.
Declarer must distinguish between inevitable losers and losers that might be avoided.
When partner opens 1 NT and RHO makes a natural overcall, your cue-bid serves as Stayman.
You can't preempt a preempt. After they preempt, a jump overcall is strong rather than weak.
Always strive to learn all that you can about the opponent's distribution. Once you know one player's distribution, all you need to learn his partner's shape is some simple arithmetic.

After a negative double, opener's jump in a new suit is NOT a game-forcing jump-shift.
A good player doesn't care whether he wins early tricks, as long as he ends up with the desired total.
Analyzing a revealing enemy auction can allow you to find the killing opening lead.
The best defense against a crossruff is to lead trumps early and often.
Although an opening 4-level preempt is usually based on an 8-card suit, it is reasonable to take some liberties when the vulnerability is favorable

When you have important information that your partner can't possibly know about, tell him loud and clear.
Once you deny four cards in a particular suit, feel free to raise partner with excellent 3-card support, even though he may have only a 4 -card suit.

Even when there is no threat of an overruff, trumping with honors is not showing off - sometimes it's the only way you can preserve entries.

Every player enjoys winning tricks with small cards. However, because of entry considerations, when declarer has the chance to win a "cheap trick," sometimes he had better think twice about it.

When partner opens and RHO overcalls, a cue-bid promises support of opener's suit.
When partner opens 1NT and your RHO passes, it is correct to transfer to a minor less than 6 percent of the time.

After a raise from partner that promises only 3 trumps, if opener has 5 modest trumps, he must proceed carefully even if he has excellent distribution.

With an "iffy" suit, draw trumps and strip both your hands of any irrelevant suit. Now throw the enemy in with a sure loser.

When giving count with an even number of cards (usually 2 or 4 ), start with the highest card you are sure you can afford.

The very best distributions include 5-4-4-0, 6-4-3-0 and 7-4-2-0.
If partner opens 2 clubs and RHO overcalls, a double should show a lousy hand (0-3 HCP).
Good players are not grabbers. They don't mind losing a trick or two if it gives them the best chance to make the hand.

An overcall in a 4-card suit should be based on at least three honors in the suit.
If a vulnerable opponent jumps to 4 hearts or 4 spades on his own, he is eager to play in that contract. Try hard not to let him.

When dummy is known to have a short suit, it is usually best to lead a trump.

Marty Bergen is one of America's most successful bridge authors and teachers. He is also a highly successful player with a great track record in Regionals, Sectionals and Nationals. He has several books on the market, as well as an assortment of pamphlets. These are all great learning tools for Intermediate/Novice players.

Marty also offers online bridge lessons. For more information, go to Martybergen.com.

## Central States <br> Regional

October 24 - 30, 2011
Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
on Route $50,1 / 2$ mile east of Route 12.

Special Bridge Room Rate
Available until 9/20
Call 262-248-8811 or 800-558-3417

Monday 7:30 pm
I/N Stratified Charity Pairs
Stratified Pairs 0-100, 100-200, 200-300
Tuesday through Friday 9:30, 2:00 \& 7:30 pm
Single Sessions
I/N Stratified Pairs 0-100, 100-200, 200-300

## Saturday 9:30

Single Session
299er Stratified Pairs 0-100, 100-200, 200-300
Sunday $10 \mathrm{am} \& 2 \mathrm{pm}$
299er Stratified Swiss Teams, 0-100, 100-200, 200-300
Two Single Sessions, More Points
Free Intermediate/Novice Dinner (Thursday between sessions)

Daily Speakers
Registration Gifts


## Bridge Rules ... compiled by Lynn Koskie

Rules of 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19 and 20
The Rule of 7 - How many times to hold up as declarer in a no trump contract. Add the number of cards in your hand and in dummy in the suit led. Subtract the sum from 7. Hold up that many times if possible.

The Rule of 11- The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge, 3rd Edition, pub. 1976, contains the following: "RULE OF ELEVEN: A mathematical calculation applicable when the original lead is construed as a 4th highest one." It is sometimes possible to obtain an exact reading of the distribution in all four hands. The discovery of the rule is generally credited to R. Foster, and was published by him in his 'Whist Manual'. First put in writing by him in a letter from Foster to a friend in 1890, it is said to have been discovered independently by E. M. F. Benecke of Oxford at about the same time. The rule states: "Subtract the pips (symbols) on the card led from eleven; the result gives the number of higher cards than the one led in the other three hands".
The Rule of 11 is an almost every standard book on defense or on play in general, including Audrey Grant, Bill Root, and Sheinwold.
"Rule of 10 and 12 " is the same as rule of 11 but applied to those playing 3rd \& 5th leads instead of 4th best. Of course, you have to guess whether partner's lead is 3 rd or whether it is 5 th, in order to decide whether to use rule of 10 or 12 .

The first section of Ron Klinger's $\underline{100}$ Winning Bridge Tips contains a number of the "Rules".
Rule of 15 - in 4th seat, count your high cards, add to them - irrespective of where high cards are - the number of spades in your hand. If you reach 15, open the hand. Helps to decide whether to open in 4th seat.

The Encyclopedia of Bridge gives the rule of fifteen but gives no attribution.It is attributed to (the late, i believe) Don Pearson of California. The sum of HCP and spades is known in some circles as "Pearson points". Rule of 15 is in Max Hardy's books.. Points, Schmoints by Marty Bergen has Rules of 15 \& 20, with good explanations.

Rule of 20 - Count your high cards, add the length of your two longest suits if you reach 19/20 INCLUDING 2 quick tricks, open.
The rule of 19 is used in England; the same as the USA uses the rule of 20!

Hayward-Minong Autumn Sectional 2011 Hayward, Wisconsin
LCO Casino Lodge \& Convention Center
October 6th, 7th, 8th \& 9th, 2011
13767 W County B Hayward, WI 54843
Thursday, October 6 7:00 p.m., Stratified 199er Pairs

Friday, October 7 9:00 a.m., Stratified 199er Pairs 1:30 p.m., Stratified 199er Pairs 7:00 p.m., Stratified 199er Pairs

Saturday, October 8 9:00 a.m., Stratified 199er Pairs 1:30 p.m., Stratified 199er Pairs 7:00 p.m., Stratified 199er Pairs


Sunday, October 9
9:30 a.m., Stratified 0-300 Swiss Teams Play Through Includes Luncheon Buffet Special speakers at 6:15 p.m. on Friday \& Saturday Stratification: 0-50, 50-100, 100-200 $0-5$ point ACBL members play free at all games!

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## Tips for Opener and Responder from Eddie Kantar

## TIPS FOR THE OPENER

It is permissible to open 1NT or 2NT with a small doubleton. However, if your nerves are shot, at least have stoppers in the other three suits.

With four clubs and four spades, a hand strong enough to open 1NT, but no stopper in EITHER red suit, open 1C.
S. AKJ4
H. 87
D. 654
C. AKJ4
(Open 1C) Ditto with four diamonds and four spades and no stopper in clubs or hearts, open 1D. If partner responds 1 H , rebid 1 S ; if partner responds 2 C , rebid 2 S .
Do not bid a weak four card suit in response to an opening bid holding a good hand (an opening bid or better). If there is a slam in the hand, your response will usually lead to trouble. Among other calamities, it might encourage partner to bid 3NT with a singleton in that suit. If partner opens 1D, respond 1 S with:

## S. AKQ10 <br> H. 9432 <br> D. AJ8 <br> C. 76

There is no rule from up above that dictates that you MUST respond one heart with four hearts and four spades although you almost always do.

As a general rule, with 4-4 in the majors, respond 1 H to an opening bid of 1 C or 1 D , but with $5-5$ in the majors, respond 1 S regardless of the relative strength of the two suits.

With five cards in a minor and four cards in a major plus opening bid strength, respond in the minor and then bid the major. If partner opens 1D and you hold: S. AJ76 H. 54 D. 54 C. AK1076
Respond 2C and then bid spades. DON'T START WITH 1S!. With less than opening bid strength, bid the major first. S. KQ76 H. 54 D. 43 C. AJ764 Respond 1S.

As the opener, keep in mind that a 1 NT response to an opening major suit bid frequently contains a singleton (usually in your suit), and may contain a void. It is one of the few notrump responses that does not show a somewhat balanced hand. If partner opens 1 H , respond 1 NT with: S. J54 H. - D. A5432 C. Q9653. This is the reason why you should have a six card major suit to rebid the suit after a 1 NT response.

After a two level response to an opening bid, a new suit by the opener is forcing; after a one level response it is not -unless it is a reverse.

| Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder | Opener | Responder |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1H | 2C | 1D | 1H | 1C | 1H |
| 2 D (forcing) |  | 2C (not forcing) |  | 2D (forcing -a reverse) |  |

After a single raise, a new suit is forcing. Think of the 2 D bid as having the strength of a reverse which means 17+ HCP, minimum.
Opener Responder
1C 2C
2D (forcing)
Opener is NOT running away from a short club. Opener is trying to get to game with a big hand. Opener may have: S. A4 H. 84 D. AK97 C. AK764.
In this sequence, 2NT by the opener after the 2C response shows 17-18 HCP. When responder limits a hand with a single raise and opener bids again, opener is trying for game with extras.

When considering whether to open 1NT, treat a five card suit headed by three of the top five honors (or two of the top three honors with a 9 thrown in) as worth one extra point. In other words, with 17 HCP and a strong five card suit, treat the hand as an 18 point hand. If you play a range of 15-17, do not open 1 NT . Open the bidding in the five card suit and then jump in notrump. You pick up:
S. A107 H. J92 D. K5 C. AKQ76 Open 1C and jump to 2NT if partner responds 1D, 1H or 1S. Too strong to open 1NT.

## TIPS FOR THE RESPONDER

When partner opens 1 H and you have five spades and three hearts, raise to 2 H with 6-9 HCP. With 10-12 HCP, respond 1 S and bid 3 H at your next opportunity.
a. S. KQ876 H. Q43 D. 65 C. 876

Raise 1H to 2H (See next tip)
b. S. KQ876 H. AJ3 D. 65 C. 876

Respond 1S and if partner rebids 2C, 2D or 2H, bid 3H.
In the sequence $1 \mathrm{H}-1 \mathrm{~S}, 2 \mathrm{C}-2 \mathrm{H}$, your 2 H preference shows TWO hearts, not three. With three hearts tend to raise directly.
a. S. AJ543 H. 105 D. Q542 C. 104

Is a normal responding hand for the example sequence.
b. S. K54 H. 875 D. J432 C. Q54

With 6H-7HCP, three nondescript hearts, plus a balanced hand, respond 1NT to a 1 H opening bid. If partner rebids 2 C or 2 D , return to 2 H in theory showing a doubleton heart. Not to worry, partner will not complain when he sees what you put down. Raising to 2 H is too encouraging with 6-7 point abominations.
After partner opens 1 H or 1 S and there is an intervening overcall, a jump cuebid by responder shows a singleton in the opponent's suit, at least four card support for partner's suit plus minimum of 14-15 support points. It is a mild slam try. Say partner opens 1H and the next hand bids 2C and you hold:
S. AJ87 H. KQ43 D. Q1098 C. 3

With 15 support points, jump to 4C making it easier for partner to evaluate her hand.
A jump cue bid after a minor suit opening bid also shows a singleton in the jump suit, but this jump promises five or six card support and denies a side four card major. Say partner opens 1C and the next hand overcalls 1D and you hold:
S. A43 H. K43 D. 2 C.KJ8743.

You have a perfect 3D response. Do it!
When partner bids 4NT, Blackwood, and you have 1 or 3 aces along with a void, jump to the SIX level of your VOID suit. If your void suit is higher ranking than the trump suit, jump to the six level of the trump suit. Say you hold either of these hands:
a. S. - H. AJ5432 D. 543 C. J982
b. S. J98 H. AJ5432 D. - C. 5432

Partner opens 1 H , you bid 4 H and partner bids 4 NT . With (a) bid 6 H showing 1 ace with a higher ranking (spade) void. With (b) jump to 6D showing one ace and a diamond void.

If you play strong jump shifts, a jump shift should be made with one of three hand types: (1) A strong one suited hand; (2) A hand that has strong support for partner's suit; (3) A balanced type hand with a five or possibly a six card suit with much of the strength on the outside. With (1) rebid your suit; With (2) return to partner's suit; With (3) rebid some number of notrump.

A convention worth considering is Leaping Michaels. With a name like that, how can you go wrong? Basically, this is the idea. If your RHO opens 2 H or 2 S , weak, or the bidding comes around to you in 4 th seat LHO having opened 1 H or 1 S and having been raised to 2 H or 2 S , a leap by you to 4 C or 4 D is "Leaping Michaels. But what does it show?

It shows a strong hand with five or six cards in the minor that you have just bid plus FIVE cards in the unbid major. For example, if your RHO opens 2S, bid 4C with: S. - H. QJ987 D. A6 C. AK9874 The jump is not forcing, but responder doesn't need much to bid game. Bid the same if your LHO opens 1S, partner passes and RHO raises to 2 S .

In addition, when playing 'Leaping Michaels', you can use the direct cuebid of the opponent's suit at the three level to ask partner for a stopper in their suit when holding a solid six or seven card suit plus outside strength but no stopper in their suit.
For example, if your RHO opens 2H, bid 3H with: S. A4 H. 54 D. AKQ10764 C. K5. Bid the same if your LHO opens 1H, partner passes, and RHO bids 2H. Note: A good partner will have a stopper. If partner has a weak hand with no stopper, partner should bid 4C which partner corrects to diamonds if necessary. Responder can also jump to 5C (which will be corrected, if necessary) or, perhaps, cuebid opener's suit with a singleton.

## FallFest Silver Point Sectional

November 11-13, 2011
Lindner Conference Center
660 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard, Il (On the campus of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, E. of Yorktown Mall at traffic light ) 0-299 "I/N" Schedule
Friday, November 6
9:30 a.m. I/N Stratified Pairs
2:00 p.m. I/N Stratified Pairs
7:30 p.m. I/N Stratified Pairs
Saturday, November 7
2:00 p.m. I/N Stratified Pairs
7:30 p.m. I/N Stratified Pairs
Sunday, November 8
10:00 a.m. 299er Stratified Swiss Teams
0-100, 100-200, 200-300
Chairperson: Suzi Subeck
For information, call: 847-509-0311 or www.bridgeinchicago.com

LaCrosse Sectional, November 4-6, 2011
The Baus Haus (also serving lunch) 1920 Ward Ave., La Crosse, WI

All 299er Strata: Stratified by tournament director
Friday, November 4
1:30 pm, 299er Pairs
7:00 pm, 299er Pairs
Saturday
November 5
9:00am, 299er IMP Pairs
1:30 pm, 299er Pairs 299er Pizza Party
Mini Educational Session
7:00 pm, 299er Pairs
Chairperson:
Dave Melin (608) 797-3587 melind0908@aol.com Partnerships
Jim Stahl (608) 784-0827


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Upcoming Tournaments (advertised within)<br>Autumn Sectional, October 6-9, Haywood, WI<br>Central States Regional, October 24-30, Lake Geneva

LaCrosse Sectional, November 4-6, LaCrosse, WI
FallFest Sectional, November 11-13, Lombard, IL


